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World Briefs

Report says 2 hostages have died

From Herald Wire Services

WASHINGTON — Columnists Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta say that U.S. intelligence officials have determined that two of six Americans kidnapped in Lebanon died of heart attacks while held captive.

But a State Department spokesman said Friday that the government is operating on the assumption that all six hostages are alive.

A Anderson and Van Atta reported Thursday that the CIA had determined that hostage William Buckley died last spring in Iran of a heart attack following months of torture by Moslem extremists. In a second report Friday, the columnists said hostage Peter Kilburn had also died in captivity. Both reports quoted unidentified intelligence sources.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman reiterated, "As we've said many times, we operate on the assumption that all six hostages are alive."